## RAÚL M. GRIJALVA 7th District Arizona

1440 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0307 PHONE: (202) 225-2435 FAX: (202) 225-1541 www.house.gov/grijalva



## COMMITTEES: RESOURCES EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

APPOINTMENTS:

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE CHAIR DEMOCRATIC PRIVATE CALENDAR OBJECTOR

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-0307

March 21, 2007

President George W. Bush The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

With all due respect for the office you hold, I ask you to immediately request the resignation of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

Mr. Gonzales has lost the confidence of the American people and is no longer credible in this post, which requires him to serve, above all, the law, the Constitution, and the American people, not the White House's political agenda or you personally. The highest law enforcement officer in the land must be beyond even the appearance of impropriety, and Mr. Gonzales, clearly, no longer meets this minimal standard to hold the office.

With regard to the firing of eight United States Attorneys (Daniel G. Bogden of Las Vegas, Paul K. Charlton of Phoenix, Margaret Chiara of Grand Rapids, Bud Cummins of Little Rock, David G. Iglesias of Albuquerque, Carol Lam of San Diego, John McKay of Seattle, and Kevin Ryan of San Francisco) and their replacement without Senate input under a provision in the Patriot Act sought by your Administration, Mr. Gonzales and a number of his deputies at Justice have misled the American people. It is deeply disheartening to me that the most charitable explanation for these false statements is simple incompetence, rather than deliberate obfuscation.

Your Administration has stated that the White House was not involved in this decision, that partisan politics was not a motive, that there was no intent to evade Senate input on replacements, and that your chief political aide, Karl Rove, was not involved. After the release of Administration e-mails pertaining to this matter, it seems that all of these explanations are now "inoperative," to use a familiar phrase from the past.

Not only have these recent revelations called into question Mr. Gonzales' basic managerial competence at the Department of Justice, but they have also impeached his own previous testimony and demolished any confidence this Congress and the American people may have had in his personal veracity.

In Senate hearings on his nomination for this position, Mr. Gonzales claimed to understand the meaning and importance of his role as Attorney General, in contrast to

that of White House Counsel, the post he held at the time. On January 6, 2005, in his opening statement, Gonzales told the Senate and the American people,

With the consent of the Senate, I will no longer represent only the White House. I will represent the United States of America, and its people. I understand the differences between the two roles. In the former, I have been privileged to advise the President and his staff. In the latter, I would have a far broader responsibility, to pursue justice for all of the people of our great nation, to see that the laws are enforced in a fair and impartial manner for all Americans.

It is precisely this fundamental distinction which Mr. Gonzales failed to observe and precisely this principle which he gravely violated.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and I look forward to a timely response.

Sincerely,

Raúl M. Grijalva

Member of Congress